

Emmetsburg Cemetery Monument
Hall vicinity
Granite County
Montana

HAER No. MT-48

HAER
MONT,
20 - HALL V,
1 -

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Emmetsburg Cemetery Monument

HAER No. MT-48

Location: Sec. 36, T9N R14W
Hall vicinity, Granite County, Montana

UTM: 12.323955.5151540
Quad: Henderson Mountain

Dates of Construction: 1867-1914

Present Owner: U. S. Bureau of Land Management
U. S. Department of the Interior

Original Use: Cemetery

Present Use: Monument

Significance: Founded in 1865-1866, Emmetsburg was one of Montana's earliest mining camps. The townsite has been entirely destroyed by dredging, and the cemetery is the only remaining vestige. It is one of the oldest in the state and was established in a very early period of development and settlement. The graves, which date from 1867 to 1872, are those of gold miners, a class of men who had an enormous impact on the course of history in Montana in the 1860s and later. The cemetery is probably the most significant historic site remaining in the lower Flint Creek valley.

Researchers: Craig Holstine and Glen Lindeman, AHS, Eastern Washington University, 1983

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1985

The commemorative monument and graveyard in which it stands are situated on a bluff on the north side of the Henderson Creek valley, about 3.5 miles northwest of Maxville. The marble shaft and cemetery are the only remaining vestiges of the early gold mining town known as Emmetsburg (also called Henderson), founded in the late 1860s and largely abandoned by 1879. The old townsite in the valley bottom is now covered with massive tailings piles from a large-scale gold dredging operation conducted in the 1940s. The ca. 11-foot-high commemorative monument was erected in the community's unmarked cemetery in 1914. Engraved on the west face is an emblem depicting a pick, shovel, and gold pan, beneath which are the names of the men buried here: Pat McHenry, 1867,; Thos. Roach, 1867; Jas. Fletcher, 1867; Jas. Grimes, 1867, Wm. O'Hara, 1868, Ed. McClusky, 1868; Jas. Jones, 1872. On the north side is the following engraving:

"To the known and unknown dead of Henderson Gulch, this monument is dedicated. James A. Murray, Dec. 1, 1914."

The south face bears the inscription:

"God sent you here to make the wilderness a state. This done,
He called you home but left your work for inspiration."

References: William Harvey Emmons and Frank Cathcart Calkins, *Geology and Ore Deposits of the Philipsburg Quadrangle Montana*, U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 78, 1913, pp. 1191, 263.

The Statistics of the Population of the United States (Ninth Census, 1870), U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1872, p. 195.

Daily Missoulian, "Proud Shaft Guarding Dead," December 10, 1914, pp. 1, 7; and Philipsburg Mail, "Gift of Murray" and "A Marble Shaft," December 11, 1914, p. 1.